



N E W S   R E L E A S E

**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

CA Senate District 26

**Representing the communities of:**

Arlington Park • Baldwin Hills • Beverlywood • Canterbury Knolls • Chesterfield Square • Country Club Park • Culver City • Exposition Park • Fox Hills • Hancock Park • Hollywood Hills • Hyde Park • Koreatown • Ladera Heights • Lafayette Park • Lafayette Square • Leimert Park • Los Feliz • Mid City • Morningside • Manchester Square • North University Park • Palms • Rancho Park • Silver Lake • University Expo Park West • Vermont Knolls • View Park • West Adams • West Los Angeles • Windsor Hills • Wilshire Center

For Immediate Release  
August 18, 2008

Contact: Fahizah Alim  
(916) 651-4026

**SACRAMENTO URBAN LEAGUE HONORS SENATOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS WITH  
THE VERNON E. JORDAN JR. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD**

Sacramento, CA-The Greater Sacramento Urban League will honor Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, with their Vernon E. Jordan Jr. Legislative Advocacy Award during their State of Black America 2008 Legislative Reception on Tuesday, August 19, in the Capitol basement rotunda from 5:30-7:30pm.

“The model of engaging, educating, and empowering the community that Senator Ridley-Thomas has set forth as an example should be in the handbook for all legislators,” said James Shelby, President and CEO of the Greater Sacramento Urban League.

Sen. Ridley-Thomas was given the award, *“For works in public service that support the Urban League mission and impacts the greater good for economic and social parity in underserved and urban communities of color.”*

The program also will feature the presentation of the Urban League’s *“State of Black America 2008: In the Black Woman’s Voice”* report.

For more than a decade the National Urban League has researched and published *The State of Black America*, a national equality index outlining the key critical concerns and their impact on the African American population throughout the United States.

Since 1996, the Greater Sacramento Urban League has incorporated these key findings into the development of its urban solutions programs and services, which address the economic empowerment and workforce development needs of the underserved and communities of color throughout the Sacramento region.

“I am especially proud and honored to receive this award,” said Sen. Ridley-Thomas. “I want to stress the significance and importance of a strong partnership with the Urban League and the Legislative Black Caucus in the pursuit of legislative, social and policy initiatives that positively impact the lives and livelihood of African American throughout the state.

“The annual *State of Black America* gives us comprehensive and quantitative information about the conditions of the black community and was the catalyst for the *State of Black California Report*.

“Both reports continue to add value to the formation of the Legislative Black Caucus’ legislative and non-legislative priorities.” Sen. Ridley-Thomas said. “These reports also help community leaders develop effective strategies to re-energize and engage our communities to participate in public policy discourse and political participation.”

This is the second annual Legislative reception and all Members and Capitol staff are invited.

####